

RCRA SHOWCASE PILOTS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND EPA CONTACTS

Q1 What are the RCRA Showcase Pilots?

A1 On January 11, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the second round of RCRA Cleanup Reforms. Part of the reforms initiative is the innovative cleanup pilots component, the RCRA Showcase Pilots. EPA seeks to work with the states, industry and other stakeholders to develop 25 RCRA Showcase Pilots in 2001. The pilots are intended to showcase innovative efforts and stimulate others to explore similar efforts to speed up progress toward cleanup goals. We hope that successful approaches can be applied, as appropriate, across states and EPA Regions. The Showcase Pilots will be shared on our RCRA Corrective Action web site (<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>).

Q2 What are the benefits of being a pilot?

A2 The pilots will provide an excellent opportunity for: gaining nationwide recognition and endorsement; crafting and field testing of innovative approaches to administrative flexibility or new technologies; achieving expedited cleanup at one or multiple sites; And establishing unique and beneficial partnerships.

Q3 Who can offer pilot ideas?

A3 Individuals and representatives from government agencies, tribes, regulated industry, environmental and community groups, and other stakeholders are encouraged to contact their State Agency or EPA Regional Office with pilot ideas for innovative, expedited cleanup/redevelopment of RCRA facilities or properties subject to RCRA operating cleanup requirements.

Q4 What are examples of innovative pilot ideas?

A4 Examples of innovative pilot ideas include pilots that:

- work with companies with multiple facilities in an EPA Region or State to achieve program goals at all facilities;
- improve stakeholder involvement and communication to resolve issues where cleanup progress is slow;
- use site characterization technologies or strategies that efficiently assess Environmental Indicators;
- enhance the use of protective and accountable state non-RCRA Cleanup programs to achieve program goals;
- establish EPA Regional or state “corrective action expeditors” to focus on cleanups that are stalled or delayed;
- expedite achievement of program goals at federally-owned facilities;
- use Superfund or emergency authorities at RCRA sites where the facility owner is recalcitrant or has limited funds;
- enhance potential for redevelopment at RCRA sites;

- form unique partnerships for cleanup and redevelopment planning, implementation and problem-solving;
- promote common remedial strategies or innovative approaches at similar facilities within a particular sector (e.g., petroleum refineries);
- develop an industry consortium within a State or Region to explore particular remedies or technologies;
- integrate RCRA corrective action within a broader cleanup area, e.g., cleanup of contaminated sediment, a broad brownfields or environmental justice areas;
- use licensed site professionals to oversee analytical testing and remedial activities; and
- use citizen monitors to observe facility operations and cleanup activities.

Q5 What level of funding will EPA allocate to the pilots?

A5 EPA is not allocating pilot funding.

Q6 What is the time line for the pilots?

A6 Please contact your EPA Regional Office with your pilot idea as soon as possible. Each EPA Regional Office will forward at least one pilot idea to Headquarters between June 1st and July 15th, 2001. The pilots will be initiated in 2001. We anticipate that results or products achieved will be no more than two years. We expect to report pilot progress as appropriate to the duration of the project.

Q7 What criteria should be addressed in the pilot project description?

A7 Pilot project descriptions should be developed in consultation with the EPA Regional Office, the State Agency, and other key participants. Pilot descriptions should be brief (1- 3 pages in length) and should address the following factors:

- What makes this project innovative (Does the project speed achievement of Environmental Indicators? Why will the pilot project/cleanup work)?
- What are the benefits of this project (e.g., environmental, community, economic, other)?
- How have you involved stakeholders in developing this project (for example; owner/operator, tribe, state/local agencies, local community, redevelopers, other interested parties)? Where applicable, please indicate the level of support of the owner/operator.
- Who are the pilot participants and what is their role (for example; states, tribes, local agencies, other federal agencies, regulated industry, and environmental and community groups)?
- What is the potential for applying this innovative approach to other sites?
- What are the proposed project milestones and associated dates?
- Provide a brief description of the pilot facility, including location and regulatory status if pilot addresses a specific facility.
- How and when will pilot progress be measured and reported?
- Who will oversee the pilot (State and/or Region)?

- Who are the key Regional/State contacts responsible for managing the pilot project (name, phone, e-mail, affiliation)?

Q8 How can I submit my pilot project idea?

A8 Contact your EPA Regional Office with your pilot project idea as soon as possible. Each EPA Regional Office will forward at least one pilot idea to Headquarters between June 1st and July 15th, 2001.

EPA Regional Office Contacts for RCRA Showcase Pilots			
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